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Bait-uz-Zafar Envoy

JANUARY 2009

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**A Very Happy & Blessed
New Year to our Readers!**

January 4th - Sunday —11am—
Khuddam & Lajna Amila Meeting

January 10th - Saturday —Nasirat &
Atfal Meeting during Tahir School

January 30th - Friday —7:30pm—
Monthly Khuddam Meeting

January 31st - Saturday —Waqfe Nau
Ijtema

January 31st - Feb 1st —National
Ansar Leadership Conference

Tahir School— Every Saturday

Tabligh Classes every Wednesday @
7:30pm after Isha Prayer

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All 4 Majalis of New York Jama'at celebrates Eid-ul-Adhia @ Bait-uz-Zafar



Imam Kauser sahib addressing Eid Sermon to members

Monday, December 8th came the joyous day, Eid-ul-Adhia and members from Bronx, Brooklyn, Long Island, and Queens Majlis all gathered under one roof, Bait-uz-Zafar to celebrate this jubilant day. Men, Women, and Children exceeded the number by thousands as the Mosque was filled with exuberant joy among the members. This was the last gathering of New York Jama'at for the year of Khilafat Jubilee and everyone took this opportunity to embrace one another as the reunion came to close. Food was prepared by the Queens Ziafat team and Security and patrolling was carried out under the supervision of Queens Majlis as well.



Return Address:

Bait-uz-Zafar Envoy
188-15 Mclaughlin Ave
Hollis, NY 11423



Tabligh Announcements

- We will resume our monthly **Weekly Tabligh** class starting Jan 7th, Wednesday at 7:30 PM, we will be showing the documentary Jesus in India all members are encouraged to take benefit from it.
- **A Pocket book of Biblical Reference** for tabligh is available at <http://www.alislam.org/library/books/biblical/index.html>
- Our QPTV Programs will be aired **Tuesdays at 3:30PM** on Channel 56 and **Wednesday at 7:30PM** on Channel 35
- Please update Tabligh Secretary regarding any tabligh activities, questions or comments at 917-363-3673 or info.newyork@ahmadiyya.us!

Tabligh Progress Report

- On Dec 28th 2008 & Jan 4th 2009 and 1010 WIN Radio will be running our AD between 3pm and 11pm.
- There has been contacts made with a social workers and a Muslim leaders we are going to invite them soon.
- There was a representative who came from 1010 WIN Radio and was given the tour of he facility.
- There has been 1 comment posted in NY times regarding an Article on Islam.
- 8 poster boards are printed for mosque exhibition. We are exploring other media to enhance the exhibition.
- 4 one on one tabligh reported by various Jamaat members.

Queens Pubic Television Program - QPTV (Ghulam Rabbi, Sehhar, Mueen, Reaz & Naved)

- One phone call received from QPTV program in December
- Mohammad Sehhar submitted 4 programs for January and 4 are under being prepared for Feb

Bangla Desk (Reaz Rahman)

- Multiple Bangla books are now available to be given out to tabligh contacts
- Reaz Rahman sb gave a khutba in Bangla at Fitchburg where 8 non-ahmadi attended our Jummah.
- 2 Newspaper ads are published on alternative weeks and 4 phone calls are received as a result
- Two newspaper articles are published (one was Huzoor's khutba on Economic crises and the other was an invitation to Ahmadiyyat)
- 4 videos on Wafat-e-Isa were submitted on google and are now available for all to watch

By: Ghulam Rabbi & Naved Saeed

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NAZIR AYAZ

There is a hadith: Holy Prophet Mohammad^{saw} said "Allah will continue to hold out his hand at night so that he who has sinned during the day might repent, and to hold out his hand during the day so that he who has sinned at night might repent, till the sun should rise from the west.

Hazrat Masih Maud (as) has said that when we go to bed at night, we should take self accountability about how the day was spent.

Every night there is a hope for better tomorrow. Beginning of New Year brings hope and optimism. We do New Year resolutions and pledge to improve and to become a better person.

New Year acts like milestone in our lives. We look back and see what we have achieved during last year and how much we have improved.

While it is customary to wish happy New Year, perhaps it is also time to pray for happiness and well being of everyone. May Allah forgive our past sins and bless us in the coming year.

Let the New Year be witness that we are treading on the path of righteousness. It is time to reflect and resolve – to be better than what we are today.

Let us come closer to our creator. Drop our shortcomings and bad habits. Take care of our health and our family. Become more efficient and productive. Time management is art so let us be punctual.

The question, are we beneficial to our community and society is answered positively.

Let us take forward the blessings of Khilafat that we celebrated in 2008 in the years to come. Allah gave us a beautiful mosque in 2008, let us come often to the Mosque and become more involved in Jama'at activities. The progress of the Jama'at is a collective effort and let each and every one of us be participant in this cause.

May Allah resolve all our worries and hurdles to success and bring glad tidings in the New Year. Avery happy, healthy and blessed New Year to everyone.

- This Month Khuddamul Ahmadiyya of Queens held it's monthly Amila Meeting on Saturday December 20th at 2pm followed by the monthly general Khuddam Meeting.
- Khuddam helped cleaning and preparing for the Eid prayer
- Waqr-e-Amal was performed by cleaning the Masjid
- A sleepover was held for Khuddam and Atfal on New Year's Eve
- Weekly Basketball league continues to take place
- Khuddam spends time in gym after Magrib & Isha prayers regularly
- Below are pictures showing highlights:



National Naib Mohtamid OF Majlis Atfalul Ahmadiyya, Zeshan Hamid visited during New Year's Eve to spend time with Atfal. Naib Sadran National Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, Rizwan Alladin, and Mohammad Ahmed Chaudhry also attended.



Atfal and Khuddam are participating in recreational activities in the Gym in Bait-uz-Zafar



Khuddam are cleaning and fixing lights for the preparation of Eid ul Adhia



Wagr-e-Amal being done

Khuddam Monthly Meeting

“Jesus In India”, written by the Promised Messiah^{as} is a big hit on Amazon now. 30 copies were sold on Amazon. Readers are showing a growing interest on this topic

If anyone wishes to donate books to our Baituz-Zafar Library, you are most Welcome!

Kindly drop your Good conditioned books to the library and they will go through a screening before being shelved in the library. High School and College students can also donate their educational / review books so future students can benefit from.

Jazakallah

Shoeb Abulkalam, Secretary Publications

Tarbiyyat/Hulqa News:

The Secretary Tarbiyyat Karim Sharif sahib and Hulqa Nigran Nasir Ahmed along with the president visited homes in bayside Hulqa. Previously members from Manhattan and Elmhurst were visited and visits will continue in other hulqas as well. Points and suggestions that were provided by the members will be addressed and hopefully make our Jama'at more efficient in the new year, Inshallah.

Finance

The members provided their income budget for the fiscal year starting July 2009. The income budget when compiled was found to be less than last year while the expense budget sent to the center for approval has increased and that was mainly due to expense due to larger premises.

Atfal Corner

- Every Tifl now has a Mentor whom they can ask for any help and guidance, and that is Reaz Rahman, Nazm Atfal
- Parents are requested to encourage their children to write articles on “what do I celebrate” for Al-Hilal magazine and email to: shoeb@alislam.org
- There was a sleep over held on New Year’s Eve where about 20 Atfal stayed over Bait-uz-Zafar and enjoyed the night with group discussions, watching a video on 5t Khalifa, and playing sports. They woke up for tahajjot and fajr and ended with light breakfast.

An article written by Ismat Sarah Mangla, on Ahmadis in Pakistan was published in Washington Post/Newsweek's On Faith section on December 1st 2008. Ismat Sarah Mangla is a reporter at Money magazine, where she writes about banking and credit. She is also the founder of Nirali, an online magazine for South Asians in the West. Below is the link:

http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/guestvoices/2008/11/not_all_muslims_welcome_in_pak.html

Below is a brief summary of the Article:

Not All Muslims Welcome in Pakistan

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari championed a "moderate, modern and loving Islam" in a stirring speech at the United Nations on Thursday. "Islam is tolerant of other religions and cultures and internally tolerant of dissent," he told a packed audience of world leaders attending the interfaith conference. And he forcefully asserted that he, like his late wife former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, believes that the basic dignity of human beings "must be universally recognized and respected"--that, indeed, "There is nothing more un-Islamic than discrimination ... [and] terrorism."

It's a lovely picture, and one that accurately represents the Muslim faith I profess. Unfortunately, it does not represent the Pakistan that Mr. Zardari now leads.

...The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which numbers in the tens of millions, has suffered the brunt of this persecution in Pakistan. While Ahmadi Muslims believe in all the tenets of Islam, there is one major difference between us and mainstream Muslims: Our belief that God sent a messenger in the 19th Century to reform Islam for the modern age. And that singular point is what has made our community the subject of something so "un-Islamic" as discrimination.

...These indignities would perhaps be easier to stomach if they could be swept aside as the actions of a few extremists beyond the fray. Unfortunately, the institutionalized persecution of Ahmadi Muslims dates back to 1974, when, under the leadership of then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Pakistani constitution was amended to declare Ahmadis as non-Muslims. Four years later, Ahmadis were "for all practical purposes barred from voting," according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, when a series of laws created a separate electorate system for non-Muslims. In 1984, the Pakistani constitution was amended once again, prohibiting Ahmadi Muslims from professing their faith publicly, building mosques, making the call for Muslim prayers, using Islamic language and more--effectively turning any public act of worship by Ahmadis into a criminal offense punishable by death. Officially, Ahmadi Muslims cannot name their children Muhammad or utter the word "Salam." For years, organizations such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the U.S. Department of State have documented these injustices and have called upon Pakistan to reverse its ugly discrimination. In fact, the State department's 2008 International Religious Freedom Report stated the Ahmadiyya community continued to face governmental and societal discrimination and legal bars to the practice of its religious beliefs. But nothing has changed. Today, as the United States continues to work with Pakistan in the war on terror, it's hard to believe that such a country can serve as a credible partner. Until such persecution--gleefully championed by the mullahs who seek to destroy the United States and its allies--is unambiguously stamped out at the federal level in Pakistan, how can we expect the country to rein in its extremist factions?

...If Mr. Zardari really wants to be an example of Muslim tolerance, he needs to repeal the amendments and ordinances in the Pakistani constitution that disenfranchise millions of voters and ban religious freedom for an entire population. Ironically, at the end of his speech, Mr. Zardari said "Injustice and discrimination on the mere basis of one's faith must be discouraged--not only in words but through meaningful actions." Here's hoping he finds the courage to follow his own advice.

PUBLIC RELATIONS NEWS

We were invited to a panel discussion chaired by Congressman Anthony Weiner on Dec. 5th. Congressman Weiner called the meeting to discuss the recent attacks in Mumbai. In attendance were religious and community leaders from Southeast Asia. Qudoos Malik and Asad Bajwa attended the meeting.

Nazir Ayaz and Asad Bajwa attended a breakfast meeting for religious leaders at New York public library hosted by Mayor Bloomberg. It was a great opportunity to meet other religious leaders in NYC. There were about 400 guests at the breakfast.

By: Asad Bajwa

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SHINING STAR

Madiha Ahmad, who is currently attending St. John's University was on the dean's list for the undergraduate program for the 2006—2007 year and the 2007- 2008 year.

Congratulations and may Allah bless her continuously to excel in her studies, Inshallah

We want to show this movie "Jesus in India" during Tabligh Class on January 7th Wednesday at 7:30. All are welcome. Inshallah we will have heat and snacks.

जेशुस ने इंडिया

Here is a gist of the movie for those who are not aware of this movie:

The movie focuses on historical facts that has Jesus traveling east during his youth to learn from Buddhist and Hindu philosophers. The program looks at the "missing years" of Jesus, between his 12th and 30th years, when the Bible reports nothing about him. During those years, some say, he studied ethics and mysticism in the East before returning to the Holy Land. There's even talk that he escaped crucifixion, returned to India, and died and was entombed there. Author Edward T. Martin makes a brave effort to ferret out links between Jesus and India. With Paul Davids as director, he visits St. Thomas Mount in southern India, talks to the Shankaracharya, a pre-eminent Hindu leader. He consults a monk in a monastery, where a library is said to hold an ancient account of Jesus' sojourn. He ventures into tense, violent Srinagar, where some locals say Jesus is entombed.

Election for Secretary Wassaya, Secretary Audio/Video, Auditor and Shura representative on January 23, 2009. after Jumma prayers:

For last few months few Aamla members have moved out of our local Jama'at. We will be holding elections for Secretary Wassaya, Secretary Audio/Video and Auditor for Queens NY Jama'at on January 23, 2009 after Jumma prayers. Also Jama'at Majlis Shura will be held on April 24 at Bait-ur-Rahman, we will hold election for Shura representative. We will be electing one representative for every 50 Chanda paying member. Please note that elected Aamla member and representative for Majlis shura should be a person who is sincere and sound of judgment and regular chanda paying member according to prescribed rate.

Shura Proposals:

Please submit your proposal for National Majlis shura to the local general secretary in writing by February 15, 2009. Then we will discuss the approved proposal at Jama'at meeting and after approval from local Jama'at the proposal(s) will be sent to National headquarter by March 1, 2009. Note that while submitting the proposals it should be realistic and practicable and not beyond Jama'at power to implement it, if a proposal requires monetary expenses, full consideration should be paid to its budgetary aspects and estimated amount be included in proposal.

*General Secretary
Iqbal Ahmad.*

A visit to Bangali Guests in Fitchburg Jama'at

On Dec 5th, 2008, I had the opportunity to deliver the Friday sermon and lead the Jumma at the Fitchburg Mosque near Boston. Masood Ashraf Sahib., the General Secretary, Bashiruddin Mahmud Sahib, the Tabligh secretary invited me through Ghulam Rabbi Sahib, Qaid Queens to come to Fitchburg to talk to some Bangladeshi community who have been in regular contact with the Jama'at for the past year.

I deliver my sermon in parts in Bengali at the request of Masood Sahib. on the topic of Verse 4 of Sura Jumma. After the jumma, I met with the Bengali brother who were present and exchanged greetings. I was later informed by Bashiruddin Sahib that the brothers from the Bengali community stayed for almost an hour after the Jumma to talk to two of us than usual 5-10 minutes. The brothers were very much interested to talk to me in regards to Ahmadiyyat. We provided some Bengali literature and the Bengali Holy Quran. We are also trying to arrange a follow up meeting with them at an appropriate time. After the Jumma, I had lunch with Masood Sahib at his residence before returning home.

Please remember our Bengali brothers in your prayer and also the Fitchburg Jama'at for their wonderful hospitality.

Mohammed Reaz Rahman
Coordinator, Bangladesk NY

My dear brothers and sisters in Islam,

Assalamo Alaikum wa rahmatullah wa brakatohu

I hope and pray that Allah the Gracious and Merciful shower his blessings on you. May He remove all your hardships and worries. May He enable you to be among His righteous servants, may you be the recipient of His pleasure and may He always be with you.

My dears, Allah the Almighty has repeatedly commanded us in the holy Quran to observe prayer. So much so that the second attribute of the believers that is mentioned in the holy Quran is that they observe Salat (Ch 2:3). Then Allah says that surely Salat safeguards against the acts of indecency. Thus holy Prophet (SAW) says that the Salat is the pillar of the faith, meaning if this is shaken the whole building of the faith will come tumbling down. At another occasion when holy Prophet (SAW) was asked "What is dearest to Allah" He (SAW) replied "Salat at its prescribed times".

Similarly Hazrat Promised Messiah (AS) has repeatedly emphasized the importance of daily prayers. Thus he says: "Salat is owed to Allah so observe it well. Do not live the life of sycophancy to the enemy of Allah. Be mindful of loyalty and sincerity. Do not abandon salat even if the whole house is destroyed...it brings excellence to the faith, to the morals and to the world. The pleasures of the Salat far exceed the worldly pleasures. Thousands are spent on bodily pleasures and then the consequences are illnesses and this is a Paradise available for free." (Malfoozat Vol 3, p 591)

Then the Promised Messiah AS says about the importance of Mosques:

"Our Jamaat is in great need of Mosques. This is the house of Allah. The progress of Jamaat will be initiated in any town or city where a Mosque will be built." (Malfoozat Vol 4, p 93)

"The real beauty of mosques is not in the building but it is with the worshippers who come and observe Salat with sincerity. Otherwise, all these (other) Mosques are empty." (Malfoozat Vol. 4, p 491)

This is a great blessing of Allah that He has bestowed us with a large Mosque in New York after a long wait. Thus O my dear ones, let us become the beauty of this Mosque as is mentioned by the Promised Messiah (AS) that the beauty of the Mosques is with their worshippers. What will be more fortunate than to become the beauty of the house of Allah.

We would also like to inform you that while you can come to Bait-uz-Zafar for five daily prayers to up lift your spirituality, there is arrangement for you to enjoy a gym for your physical exercises as well. We hope that all members will try their utmost to come for daily prayers to Bait-uz-Zafar as often as possible.

Humbly yours in Islam

Karim A. Sharif

(Secretary Tarbiyyat, NY Jama'at)

LAJNA REPORT

This months meeting was held on December 14. Tilawat was recited by Benish Nayab and translation was done in Urdu also by Benish Nayab and in English by Maaham Ahmad, and Hadith was recited by Qudsia Ghayur. A beautiful poem was recited by Afsheen Butt and was translated by Naeema Mahmood. Next the Talim program was conducted by Naeema Mahmood. Questions were done from the Workbook relating to Surah Baqrah verses 88-91. The test that we took was returned and the answers were reviewed. Then the Tarbiyyat Program was led by Dr. Salamat Majeed. Important points of the sermon from December 27, 1991 were read in English and Urdu. The topic of the sermon was "Respect & Responsibilities of a Woman/Mother" and there was an open discussion on how society could be changed through examples of the Holy Prophet (saw). Last was the health program which was led by Fauzia Syed. She talked about taking good care of your health by exercising. She advised members of Lajna to use the gym in the Masjid. The meeting ended with announcements by Farkhanda Ahmad. She introduced the new lajna Amla and made some other announcements. The meeting ended with silent prayers and Zuhur and Asr prayers. Refreshments were served.

By: Bariah Ahmed

Waqfe-Jadid

Waqfe-Jadid year has been ended. We have fell 50% below our pledge target for 2008.

Let us pray and start contributing towards this blessed scheme in the new year, so by the end we will have all completed our pledge's and surpassed our targets for 2009. Let us remember Bro. Mahmood Ahmad and Sis. Salamat Majeed in our prayers who have both contributed over \$1000 each and also pray for those who have contributed but could not have fulfilled their pledges that Allah bless and guide them in the new year.

By: Nasir Bacchus

Every month since we moved to our new mosque it has been a regular feature in this newsletter that we bring to you updates. We are about to pay our first installment and many of you have come forward with your financial sacrifices. We are still short our target as we compile this news item. There is one member of our Jama'at who paid ten thousand dollars and then changed his mind and came forward with another one hundred thousand dollars. One young man from Brooklyn Jama'at worked on one project that lasted few months and out of the income he made in this project donated two thousand dollars. This is of significance, not knowing what future holds, he still went ahead and donated towards this blessed scheme. Another your man insisted to come in the bitter cold the other day to pay his two thousand dollars by hand. Dr. Khalid Ahmad who passed away recently met with Nazir Ayaz only about two weeks before his demise and contributed twenty thousand dollars. May Allah accept his sacrifices and have given him elevated position in the paradise. This is our mosque and Allah has given us ample opportunity to contribute generously so that our future generation enjoys the fruits of our sacrifices and dedication.

2009 CALENDAR

It is out and it is beautiful. A new team worked on it and it was father and son team, Hadi Nasir sahib and Zafar Nasir sahib. For the first time we have increased the price to \$2.00. The theme is Distinctive features of Islam. It has more room for you to include your appointments and reminders. The salat timings have been revised and we have added holy days of all major faiths. There no advertisements. This is indeed a very good New Year gift.

Visitor to Bait-uz-Zafar

National Tabligh Secretary of Lajna Canada , sister Naheed Khokar visited and was impressed with the new mosque and the facilities that it provided for Lajna.

BIRTH

Mr. and Mrs. Mansoor Ahmad were blessed with a baby girl. The newly born is the grand daughter of Hamid Ahmad sahib.

Congratulations.. May Allah bless the newcomer and make her the light of her parents eyes.

TALIM

Tahir School had their exams and will start new semester in January

GYM @ BAIT-UZ-ZAFAR

Visit the Gym at Bait-uz-Zafar. There are separate timings for ladies, in the mornings and evenings before Isha prayers.

Hulqa Meetings

- Manhattan Hulqa held its meeting and decided to say one prayer in congregation at Bait-uz-Zafar at least once a month and hold regular get together where guests will be invited
- Richmond Hill Hulqa decided to meet every Saturday at Isha prayers
- Elmhurst, bayside/Flushing and Bait-uz-Zafar meeting every week for Isha prayers at Bait-uz-Zafar
- A meeting was held of the Nigrans to plan for the new year. At this meeting, Secretary Tarbiyat and general secretary were present along with the president.

DEATH

Rana Nawaz Malik sahib passed away in Pakistan. He was the father of Qadoos Malik sahib. The deceased is a former member of our Jama'at and along with his family spent a month gathering all information pertaining to Chaudhry Zafarullah Khan sahib at U.N.

Dr. Khalid Ahmad, again a former member of our Jama'at passed away at a very young age. His brother Mubarak ahmad is member of Brooklyn Jama'at. The deceased was son in law of Saleem Ahmad sahib. Khalid's father Daud Ahmad sahib, former station master of Rabwah resides in Virginia.

اَنَا لله وَاَنَا اليه راجعون

Inna lillahi wa inna ilahi raji'un

May Allah The Almighty elevate his status in paradise and grant Patience to the family members to bear this great loss.